

INCULCATE THE SPIRIT OF DEDICATION AND SERVICE

—Dr. P. K. Doraiswami

New Delhi : One of the important points that the Nursing Schools should consider was an effort to "inculcate the spirit of dedication and service" among the nurses from the undergraduate level itself, Dr. P. K. Doraiswami, Director General of Health Services, has said.

Dr. Doraiswami was inaugurating a Workshop for the Principals of Colleges of Nursing and Directors of Post-Certificate Courses in Nursing here on April 20.

He referred to the deteriorating standard of nursing in the hospitals, with particular reference to some in Delhi, and the public criticism and said while he was doing everything to take away some of the non-nursing duties from the nursing staff that should not be cited as a cause for lowering the standard of nursing.

He asked the Principals and Directors to help mould and train the young girls to accept the "noble" profession with all the nobility it commands.

He particularly referred to the lack of courtesy and disregard for the patient in the hospitals and said that if the nurses or doctors got some time they would prefer to sit and chat rather than trying to do what is needed for the patient. The nursing staff have often been found discourteous over the telephone when the relatives want some information about the patient. These things "let us down", he said.

He said that some of these points may not be palatable but he was constrained to bring them to their notice so that they could try to do something about them.

Dr. Doraiswami said he was happy that such a workshop has been arranged since a review of technical education was very im-

portant. Although the number of medical colleges have increased from 25 with an admission capacity of 1988 in 1947 to 95 with an admission capacity of 11,600, very little has been done to implement the recommendations of the expert committees for giving emphasis on the preventive and promotive aspects of health.

He said the Government would soon launch mobile health clinics to serve the rural areas. These clinics would be attached to the medical colleges and Delhi would be the venue for the first of the five such clinics to start with. These clinics would be located near the Public Health Centres so that the nursing staff of these centres could follow up once the clinic moves out of the area. The final year nursing students to begin with, should be involved in this project which provides them with an opportunity to know the problems of the rural areas. After the clinic hours, the Doctors and the Nursing Staff could visit the nearby villages and study the problems of malnu-

trition and the diseases that exist in the community.

Such mobile clinics were important because 80 per cent of our population lived in the villages and it was our prime responsibility to cater for their needs. This would also answer some of the questions posed by the villagees regarding family planning. Often these villagers ask "what will happen if the children die?" when they are told about the idea of limiting the family size. If proper health could be assured to the villages such questions could be eliminated, he added.

There were 13 participants representing various Colleges of Nursing and Post Certificate Schools in the country attending the 5-day workshop. The workshop discussed "trends in Nursing Education in its various aspects". Topics for discussion included: Clarification of objective and various programmes preparing basic, post basic and auxiliary nursing. Types of nursing programmes to meet these objectives, Vocationalization of education. Future patterns in Nursing education, Curriculum Development and evaluation, Opportunities for research in nursing and Institutional planning.

Mrs. R. K. Sood welcomed the gathering and Dr. (Mrs.) S. Krishnan proposed a vote of thanks.

Dr. Achaya Suggests Raising Entrance Requirements for Nursing

New Delhi. Dr. Achaya, Principal and Medical Superintendent, Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital has said that the entrance requirement for general nursing should be raised to the level of the requirement for pre-medical course and graduate courses in view of the fact that more profound knowledge of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biochemistry and biophysics, besides the social sciences such as psychology, sociology and anthropology was quite essential for the practice of nursing.

Dr. Achaya was speaking at the graduation ceremony of the

School of Nursing on April 4.

Specialization in medical services, use of sophisticated equipment and techniques for medical investigation and patient care and the emphasis on the preventive and social aspects of medicine have made it necessary to improve the quality of nursing education, and to introduce specialisation such as Psychiatric, Public Health, Paediatric, Cardiac care and Neuro-Surgical nursing so that the nurse-doctor team could work with co-ordination.

She appreciated the loyalty,

(Contd. on page 174)